

**REMARKS**

Upon entry of the above amendment, 1-14 and 16 will be pending in the present application. Claim 15 has been canceled without prejudice. Claim 1 is independent. Applicants have amended the claims to conform to U.S. Patent practice. The specification on pages 21 and 22 provide support for new claim 16. Applicants have not added any new matter.

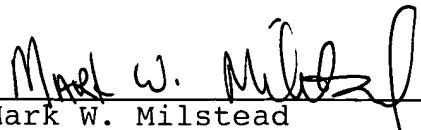
**Conclusion**

Applicants submit that the present claims define patentable subject matter and are in condition for allowance.

Should the Examiner believe that a conference would be helpful in advancing the prosecution of this application, he is invited to telephone Applicants' Attorney at the number below. If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2334 for any additional

fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly,  
extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Enclosure: Abstract of the Disclosure